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abstract than the "Introduction to the Study of History" by Langlois and Seignobos, which may well come between this and the more advanced work of Bernheim.

The book includes chapters on Choice of a Subject, Criticism of the Sources for genuineness, localization, and independence, Establishment of the Facts, Synthesis, and Exposition. The examples with which the theories are illustrated are taken from the period of the French Revolution. Some parts of the text seem rather elementary, even for the classes of readers to whom they are addressed, and the examples cited, though illuminating, rather disproportionately difficult for most students. The work is most useful, however, and should help materially in aiding beginners in research.

In connection with this work by Dr. Fling, attention may be called to "Source Problems in United States History," by A. C. McLaughlin, William E. Dodd, and others. (New York: Harper & Brothers, c. 1918). This does not contain anything of historical theory, but the practical problems so fully presented, with the notes on sources, will be very helpful to young students, especially if preceded by Dr. Fling's presentation of historical method.

C. S. T.

Recent History of the United States. By Frederic L. Paxson. (Boston: Houghton Mifflin Company, 1921. pp. XII, 630).

This is the latest of the attempts, which are becoming so frequent, to write the history of the United States since the Civil War. Like most of the others, it begins with the election of President Hayes, as the nation was emerging from the era of reconstruction, and it closes with the election of President Harding, in 1920, with the problems of reconstruction after an even greater war still unsolved.

"From Hayes to Harding," the book might have been entitled, as more in keeping with the apparent intention to give the work as wide popular appeal as possible. Unless with the purpose of providing interesting reading, it is difficult to understand why certain chapters should have been included. Chapter XII, for example, on "Wild West and

Sport," contains nine pages, mainly about Buffalo Bill and P. T. Barnum, professional baseball and boxing, bicycling, croquet, and roller skating. The bibliography on this chapter includes A. G. Spalding's "America's National Game," a life of Buffalo Bill, and P. T. Barnum's pleasing work of self-adulatory fiction styled his autobiography. Possibly paying to watch other men engage in sports is so typically an American amusement that a complete picture of the American people should take it into consideration, but we question the necessity, in a "Recent History of the United States," of chronicling the opening of the American Jockey Club, or the names and nicknames of the clubs with which the National League Baseball Clubs was organized.

Certain other chapters, apart from the beaten path of contemporary histories, are included with better reason. For example, Chapter I contains a discussion of educational progress, and Chapter III a sketch of literary development. Both of these chapters, however, are too brief to be of much value. A much larger amount of space might better have been given to a more carefully considered discussion of American educational progress and tendencies, and to literary or cultural activities since the Civil War. The same criticism may be made of the entire work, as of most—if not all—of the similar books which have yet been written. There are too many facts, with too little sifting and grouping and analysis of the essential facts. Interesting reading is provided, to awaken reminiscences and recollections of the older readers, and, for the juniors, to fill the gap between the school text-books and today's newspapers, but there is little contribution of permanent historical value. Viewed as a historical study, the work marks no advance beyond the same author's "The New Nation," published in 1915, with which, indeed, it does not compare very favorably.

C. S. T.

Chronicles of America. (New Haven, Conn.: Yale University Press, 1918-1921. 50 vols).

Publication of this interesting contribution to American History has now been completed, with the issue of the last